



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for February 2003 was 5.0 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was one-tenth of a percentage point above the January 2002 rate of 4.9 percent and four-tenths of a percentage point below the February 2002 rate of 5.4 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 6,300, or 2.7 percent, from January, and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 400 individuals, or 3.3 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the increasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 6,700 individuals, or 2.8 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from January 2003 to February 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons has decreased by 600, or 0.3 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,000 individuals, or 7.4 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,600 individuals from February 2002 to February 2003. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for February 2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

| Treasure Valley Table 2: February 2003 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | Civilian Labor Force | Number Unem- ployed | Percent Unem- ployed | Number Employed |
| Ada | 179,322 | 7,863 | 4.4 | 171,459 |
| Adams | 1,826 | 215 | 11.8 | 1,611 |
| Boise | 2,653 | 148 | 5.6 | 2,505 |
| Canyon | 70,373 | 4,696 | 6.7 | 65,677 |
| Elmore | 10,002 | 708 | 7.1 | 9,294 |
| Gem | 6,032 | 402 | 6.7 | 5,631 |
| Owyhee | 4,058 | 103 | 2.5 | 3,955 |
| Payette | 9,908 | 771 | 7.8 | 9,137 |
| Valley | 4,090 | 331 | 8.1 | 3,759 |
| Washington | 4,329 | 355 | 8.2 | 3,975 |
| Statewide | 693,867 | 37,004 | 5.3 | 656,863 |

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties

| | Feb 2003* | Jan 2003 | Feb 2002 | % Change Last Month | % Change Last Year |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 249,700 | 243,000 | 251,300 | 2.8 | -0.6 |
| Unemployment | 12,600 | 12,200 | 13,600 | 3.3 | -7.4 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 5.0 | 4.9 | 5.4 | | |
| Total Employment | 237,100 | 230,800 | 237,700 | 2.7 | -0.3 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 248,200 | 248,800 | 249,800 | -0.2 | -0.6 |
| Unemployment | 14,400 | 14,500 | 15,500 | -0.7 | -7.1 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 5.8 | 5.8 | 6.2 | | |
| Total Employment | 233,800 | 234,300 | 234,300 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| JOB BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 223,300 | 222,100 | 222,400 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| Natural Resources & Construction | 44,800 | 45,100 | 45,400 | -0.7 | -1.3 |
| Manufacturing | 14,200 | 14,300 | 14,300 | -0.7 | -0.7 |
| Durable Goods | 30,600 | 30,800 | 31,100 | -0.6 | -1.6 |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 23,900 | 23,900 | 24,300 | 0.0 | -1.6 |
| Fabricated Metal Products Mfg. | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 0.0 | -5.6 |
| Machinery Manufacturing | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Computer & Electronic Manufacturing | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 15,200 | 15,200 | 16,300 | 0.0 | -6.7 |
| Other Durable Goods | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 0.0 | 6.7 |
| Nondurable Goods | 2,600 | 2,600 | 1,900 | 0.0 | 36.8 |
| Food Manufacturing | 6,700 | 6,900 | 6,800 | -2.9 | -1.5 |
| Printing & Related Support Activities | 5,100 | 5,200 | 5,100 | -1.9 | 0.0 |
| Other Nondurable Goods | 700 | 700 | 800 | 0.0 | -12.5 |
| SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | 900 | 1,000 | 900 | -10.0 | 0.0 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 178,500 | 177,000 | 177,000 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Trade | 43,100 | 43,400 | 43,400 | -0.7 | -0.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 36,200 | 36,600 | 36,300 | -1.1 | -0.3 |
| Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 10,200 | 10,200 | 9,900 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,100 | 0.0 | 4.9 |
| Retail Trade | 2,900 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 0.0 | -3.3 |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 26,000 | 26,400 | 26,400 | -1.5 | -1.5 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,100 | 0.0 | -2.4 |
| All Other Retail Trade | 5,400 | 5,400 | 5,500 | 0.0 | -1.8 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 16,600 | 17,000 | 16,800 | -2.4 | -1.2 |
| Utilities | 6,900 | 6,800 | 7,100 | 1.5 | -2.8 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 700 | 700 | 700 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Information | 6,200 | 6,100 | 6,400 | 1.6 | -3.1 |
| Telecommunications | 3,500 | 3,600 | 3,700 | -2.8 | -5.4 |
| Financial Activities | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,200 | 0.0 | 16.7 |
| Finance & Insurance | 12,000 | 12,000 | 11,800 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 9,000 | 9,000 | 8,800 | 0.0 | 2.3 |
| Professional & Business Services | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 30,900 | 30,500 | 30,300 | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| Management of Companies & Ent. | 9,800 | 9,800 | 9,900 | 0.0 | -1.0 |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt. | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,900 | 0.0 | -2.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 14,400 | 14,000 | 13,500 | 2.9 | 6.7 |
| Educational Services | 27,200 | 26,600 | 26,600 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 2,000 | 1,600 | 2,300 | 25.0 | -13.0 |
| Hospitals | 25,200 | 25,000 | 24,300 | 0.8 | 3.7 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8,800 | 8,800 | 9,100 | 0.0 | -3.3 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 18,900 | 18,700 | 18,700 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 2,200 | 2,200 | 1,900 | 0.0 | 15.8 |
| Accommodation | 16,700 | 16,500 | 16,800 | 1.2 | -0.6 |
| Food Services & Drinking Places | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 0.0 | -5.0 |
| Other Services | 14,800 | 14,600 | 14,800 | 1.4 | 0.0 |
| Total Government | 6,600 | 6,500 | 6,700 | 1.5 | -1.5 |
| Federal Government | 36,300 | 35,700 | 35,800 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| State & Local Government | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,100 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| State Government | 31,100 | 30,500 | 30,700 | 2.0 | 1.3 |
| State Government Education | 13,600 | 13,200 | 13,200 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| State Government Administration | 4,200 | 3,900 | 4,300 | 7.7 | -2.3 |
| Local Government | 9,400 | 9,300 | 8,900 | 1.1 | 5.6 |
| Local Government Education | 17,500 | 17,300 | 17,500 | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Local Government Administration | 10,200 | 10,000 | 10,600 | 2.0 | -3.8 |
| | 7,300 | 7,300 | 6,900 | 0.0 | 5.8 |

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,200, or 0.5 percent, from January 2003 to February 2003, while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 900 in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 300 jobs; job decreases were noted in *Natural Resources & Construction* (-100 jobs), *Food Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 600 jobs; the only industries to experience job gains were *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100 jobs), and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (700 jobs). In that same time period, job losses occurred in *Natural Resources & Construction* (-100 jobs), *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,100 jobs), and *Printing and Related Support Activities Manufacturing* (-100 jobs).

In *Service-Producing Industries*, job gains outweighed jobs lost with 1,500 jobs added from January 2003 to February 2003. Job gains were experienced in *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support Services & Waste Management Services* (400 jobs), *Educational Services* (400 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (200 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (200 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *State Government Education* (300 jobs), *State Government Administration* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (200 jobs). Job losses were noted in *All Other Retail Trade* (-400 jobs) and *Information Services* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Producing Industries* gained 1,500 jobs, with job losses noted in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Food & Beverage Stores* (-100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (-100 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (-200 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (-200 jobs), *Information Services* (-200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-100 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises Services* (-200 jobs), *Educational Services* (-300 jobs), *Hospital Services* (-300 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-100 jobs), *Other Services* (-100 jobs), *State Government Education* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-400 jobs). Job gains were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (300 jobs), *Telecommunications Services* (200 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (200 jobs), *Administrative & Support Services & Waste Management Services* (900 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (900 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (300 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (500 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (400 jobs). The slow growth of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- In February, Micron Technology laid off ten percent of its workforce, or 1,800 employees, worldwide. Mi-

cron officials cited the economic slowdown and decreased demand for DRAM as reasons for the layoff. The company laid off about 1,030 at its Boise facility. All employees impacted by the layoff received a severance package.

- ZiLOG laid off 70 employees from the Nampa semiconductor wafer factory in March, reducing its workforce to approximately 160 people. Officials at ZiLOG also announced that the Nampa location would close at some point in the future, although no news was available stating when that would occur.
- Washington Group International (WGI) began trading on NASDAQ in early March. The company also announced that it received limited notice to proceed on an engineering, procurement, and construction contract for a new 500-megawatt, combined-cycle, natural gas-fueled power plant in Fort Washington, Wisconsin. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. WGI also announced that it would design and build a production facility for Aventis Pasteur, a large vaccine supplier. The \$77.5 million plant will be built in Swiftwater, Pennsylvania.
- Sears announced in late March that it plans to sell its credit division, which includes the credit card operation in Boise. About 1,000 employees work at the Boise facility; no immediate impact on those jobs were announced. No additional information on potential buyers has been announced.
- The new owners of the 8th Street Marketplace in downtown Boise recently announced a \$62 million renovation project for the space. Included in the plans is a new three-story building featuring a 10-screen movie theater and retail shops, a 400-space parking garage, 100,000 square-feet of office space, and the doubling of the existing retail space. Construction is scheduled to start this summer.
- Crane Creek Market opened in early March. The store is located in the former Sav-On Drug store location on Bogus Basin Road in Boise. The market features gourmet products, free-range chicken, a sushi bar, and a variety of freshly prepared food in its deli.
- Boise Corporation, formerly Boise Cascade, announced that it put 6,100 acres of its Idaho timberlands up for sale. The fifteen parcels are located near New Meadows, Smith's Ferry, Centerville, and Donnelly, and range in size from 36 acres to 1,748 acres. Bidding on the parcels began in April. Boise also cut 700 jobs throughout the company; approximately 20 jobs were affected at the corporate offices in Boise.
- In early April, the Boise City Council voted to reinstate the building permit for the Boise Tower project, a 25-story residential and commercial building

in downtown Boise. The city's planning staff had previously revoked the permit because the developer had failed to meet certain required conditions. Capital City Development Corp., the group that sold the land to the developer for the building, voted to initiate default proceedings. The developer must secure financing to meet the conditions of the agreement and permit.

- Northwest Airlines announced in mid-March that it would cut one of its daily flights between Boise and Minneapolis. The cut is part of the 12 percent reduction in flights announced by the company. A drop in passenger demand was cited as the reason for the drop in flights. Northwest will continue to operate two daily flights between Boise and Minneapolis.
- Ameritel Inns, Inc. announced in late February that it had made a franchise agreement deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation and is planning to construct a new Hilton Hotel near the Boise Towne Square Mall in Boise. Homewood Suites by Hilton will be an extended-stay hotel that features studio, one, and two-bedroom suites. Officials hope to open the hotel in spring 2005.
- Emporium announced in early February that it was going out of business. The company closed its two Boise stores and the Nampa store. No plans have been announced regarding replacements for the vacant storefronts.
- Costco moved its retail outlet from Franklin Road to a new location on Cole Road in late February. Officials at Costco state that the new warehouse is larger and offers better accessibility to customers. The new location also includes a gas station. Forty additional employees were hired as a result of the move.
- Home Depot announced in late March that it plans to open an outlet in Eagle in 2004. The 126,000-square-foot facility will be built at the intersection of State Street and Idaho 55. Between 125 and 150 employees will be hired to staff the new store. This will be Idaho's seventh Home Depot Store.
- Associated Food Stores closed its warehouse in Boise on Market Street in early December. The warehouse supplied groceries to about 95 small and independent grocery stores in Boise and surrounding rural areas; these areas will now be serviced by the company's new warehouse in Farr West, Utah. Between 65 and 70 employees were affected by the closure.
- Construction of a new retail center at McMillan and Eagle Roads in west Boise started in March. McMillan's Corner Retail Center is a three-building project that will house a Blockbuster video store, Maggie Moo's ice cream shop, a pizza shop, a hair salon, a dry cleaner, a mailing-and-shipping busi-

ness, and other retail establishments. No completion date was announced, although many of the tenants hope to open by mid-summer.

- The Chart House closed recently and remodeling has begun for Joe's Crab Shack, which will open in the space in July.
- Boise State University (BSU) started construction on a \$15.2 million residence hall project between Morrison and Driscoll Halls on the BSU campus. Two residence hall buildings will be built in addition to a seven-building apartment complex with a July 2004 projected completion date.
- Kit Manufacturing in Caldwell, which recently sold its Caldwell RV Division, announced in mid-February that the 165 employees would be hired for the new company, which is named Extreme RV's, LLC.
- Other recent business openings in the Boise City MSA include Baja Fresh in Meridian, Sniffles 'n Sneezes daycare facility in Meridian, a Mountain West Bank branch at State and Glenwood Roads in Boise, a Wells Fargo Bank branch at Eagle and McMillan Roads in Boise, a second Bryant Ideas at Glenwood and Marigold Streets in Boise, a second Glazed Over Donuts in Eagle, Genesis Fitness in Nampa, Country Care Assisted Living at The Meadows (a Guardian Home Care Center) in Nampa, Dealer Auto Auction of Idaho in Nampa, El Centro in Nampa, Ho Cong Kim Asian Market in Nampa, Starting Line Car Wash and Brew Crew Espresso in Nampa, Safe Start Driving School in Caldwell, a second Kawfee Dawgs in Caldwell, and a new Silverhawk Realty branch in Caldwell.
- In other recent business news in the Boise City MSA, Del Taco announce that it plans to open an eatery in Boise; Koppel's Browzeville closed after filing for bankruptcy protection; the proposed Cathedral Place project was rejected by the Boise Planning and Zoning Commission; Albertsons, Inc., purchased five Fleming Company supermarkets; SCP Global Technology acquired a division of Mattson Technology that will give SCP operations in Asia and Europe; TableRock Printing relocated to Eleventh and Grove Streets in Boise; Chico announced plans to move into a space in downtown Boise in May; Residence Inn announced plans to build an hotel on the southeast corner of Cole Road and Denton Street in Boise; Les Schwab began construction of a second store in Nampa; Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Home of Idaho in Caldwell closed; Mercy Medical Center in Nampa added a MRI scanner to its facility; and Valley Total Fitness announced that it would open in the former Super Thrift space in the Holly Shopping Center in Nampa.

Adams County

- The Council Community Hospital District was awarded \$38,000 over a three-year period from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Rural Health Care Access Grant Program. The grant will be used to support access to primary health care services.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort announced in mid-February that it would raise prices and cut back its schedule for the 2003-2004 season. The poor snow year, inflation, and increased operating costs prompted the \$30.00 increase in season ticket prices and a \$3.00 increase in day passes; the ski area will also cut back to a five-day operating schedule. The resort also announced that improvements scheduled for the mountain are temporarily on hold.

Gem County

- Work on the new Gem County jail continues. The new jail is scheduled to open in May 2003.
- Gem County Commissioners voted in mid-February to give the Walter Knox Memorial Hospital (WKMh) board of directors approval to start the process of obtaining up to a \$5 million loan through the Idaho Health Facilities Authority (IHFA). The money will be used for the final stage of renovation of WKMh. This phase of renovation includes improvements in the parking lots, upgrading the fire sprinkler system, adding a new heliport, as well as relocating and/or enhancing several areas of the hospital including the laboratory, waiting rooms, restrooms, entrance, gift shop, conference/training areas, kitchen, and laundry. Construction on the project could begin in June and will take 24 months to complete.

Valley County

- A group of Idaho residents has created a consortium that is currently in negotiations with the owner of Whitetail Resort in McCall to purchase the 77-room lodge and 18-hole golf course. If the group purchases the property, the lodge would be renamed Shore Lodge and would be reopened to the public.
- In late March, three developers presented design proposals to the McCall City Council, the McCall Urban Renewal District Board, and McCall's Conference Center Citizen Committee for McCall's new conference center. One proposal for the center includes a two-story, 22,000-square-foot facility to be built north of the Holiday Inn Express on Third Street; a second developer proposed a 12,000-square-foot facility with condominiums and a 100-room hotel on five acres of land near the corner of

Hemlock and Mill Streets in downtown McCall; a third developer proposed the conference center be built on Idaho 55 across from the Whitetail Club. No decision has been made on which plan will be chosen.

- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has proposed draining Lake Cascade in an effort to revive game fish populations and restore the lake to a popular fishing spot. Public hearings on the proposed plan were held in April. No final decision has been made on the proposal.
- The McCall Winter Carnival was held in late January and early February. Unseasonably warm temperatures worried sculptors, but cold night weather allowed the sculptors to finish the 40 sculptures in time for the judging. Large crowds attended the 10-day event that featured snow sculptures, music, a food court, parades, Monte Carlo Casino Night, hockey demonstrations, dances, plays, dog pulls, ATV races, snow sculpting contests, bingo contests, snow shoe golf, Beard/Hairy/& Sexy Leg contests, wine festival, a fun run, figure skating exhibitions, and cross country skiing. Area restaurants, stores, and lodging establishments benefited from the influx of tourists in McCall for the annual event.
- The Evergreen Theatre in McCall closed in late February. The building is owned by Lumbermen's Building Centers. By May 1, the building will house Lumbermen's display space as well as a Radio Shack franchise.
- Lake Bowl closed on April 19. Economics and lack of participants were cited as reasons for the closure.

Washington County

- Pioneer Post opened March 1 in Cambridge. The eatery is run by Susan (Suzie) Scott, and is open Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for lunch, and Wednesday through Saturday, 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., for dinner. The lounge is open Tuesday through Sunday, 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. Catering is also available.

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
E-mail: jpirtle@jobservice.us